

CLAIMS

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~~1) A mammalian secreted group XII sPLA₂ containing a potential Ca²⁺ binding segment GCGSP.~~

2) The mammalian secreted group XII sPLA₂ according to Claim 1, comprising SEQ ID N°2.

3) The mammalian secreted group XII sPLA₂ according to Claim 1, wherein said mammalian is a human.

4) A nucleic acid molecule comprising an encoding nucleic sequence for a mammalian secreted group XII sPLA₂ or for a fragment of a mammalian secreted group XII sPLA₂, having SEQ ID N°2.

5) The nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 4, comprising SEQ ID N°1.

6) A polyclonal or monoclonal antibody directed against a secreted group XII sPLA₂, according to Claim 1, a derivative or a fragment of said antibody.

7) A vector comprising at least one molecule of nucleic acid according to Claim 4, associated with adapted control sequences.

- 8) A cellular host transformed by one molecule of nucleic acid according to Claim 4.
- 9) A cellular host transformed by a vector according to Claim 7.
- 10) A nucleic and oligonucleotide probe prepared from one molecule of nucleic acid according to Claim 4.
- 11) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active agent at least one nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 4, or one protein according to Claim 1 or a derivative thereof.
- 12) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 11 which treats and/or prevents viral and bacterial infections.
- 13) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 11 which treats and/or prevents cancers.
- 14) A method for identifying a biologically active compound capable of inhibiting the catalytic activity of sPLA₂ according to Claim 1, wherein the compound is added to a cellular host according to Claim 8, and release of fatty acids and lysophospholipids is measured.